Allocation of Indus Basin water of Kutch region

3654. SHRI JAYANTI LAL BAROT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of allocation of Indus water;

(b) whether any suggestion was received from any State to arrange a meeting of all the concerned States including Gujarat to find out an amicable solution for allocation of Indus water;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereon;

(d) whether the State'Government of Gujarat has made a written request to him during his visit in September, 2002 for consideration of allocation of Indus Basin Water to Kutch region; and

(e) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Under the Indus Waters Treaty 1960, waters of The Indus, The Jhelum and the Chenab are available for the unrestricted use of Pakistan except for some specified uses by India. Waters of The Ravi, The Beas and The Suflej are available for the unrestricted use of India, except for some specified uses by Pakistan while these rivers flow in their territory and have not yet finally crossed over into Pakistan.

(b) A letter of October, 2002 from the Hon'ble Minister of Irrigation, Government of Gujarat, mentioned the visit of Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources to Gujarat in September. 2002 and requested the Central Government to use its powers to compel the concerned States hot to neglect the legitimate claim of Indus Water for Kutch region of Gujarat and to take up the allocation of Eastern River Waters issue with the concerned States at the earliest.

(c) The State Government was informed that for getting a share of the waters of the rivers Ravi, Beas and Sutlej for the Kutch region of Gujarat, the beneficiary States to whom the waters of these rivers have been allocated, have to agree to help Gujarat by sparing a portion from their allocated waters. It would therefore be appropriate if the State of Gujarat requests the beneficiary States to provide water out of their allocated shares

for the Kutch region and only an amicable settlement with the beneficiary States could benefit Gujarat.

(d) and (e) As in (b) and (c) above respectively.

Implementation of Water Resources Policy

3655. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any water resources policy in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the latest position with regard to the implementation of the policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The National Water Policy, 2002 (NWP) has been adopted by the National Water Resources Council in April, 2002.

(b)The salient features of the National Water Policy, 2002 are given in the Statement (See below).

(c) The NWP states that its success will depend entirely on envolving and maintaining a national consensus and commitment to its underlying principles and objectives. For achieving the desired objectives, the NWP stipulates formulation of State Water Policy backed with an operational action plan in a time bound manner. State Water Policy has been adopted by the States of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Orissa, Goa, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and UTs of Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli. The Ministry of Water Resources has requested all other States for early formulation and adoption of the State Water Policy in the 12th Meeting of National Water Board held on 5.1.2007.

Statement

Salient features of National Water Policy, 2002

- Water is a precious national resource and its planning, development and management should be governed by national perspectives.